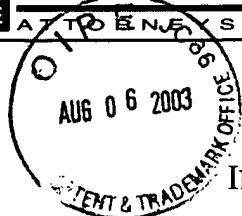




1712

750 BERING DRIVE
HOUSTON, TX 77057-2198
PHONE 713.787.1400
FAX 713.787.1440
A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: PATEL, Arvind D.

Serial No.: 09/770,848

Confirmation No.: 8405

Filed: 26 January 2001

For: IMPROVED OIL-BASED DRILLING FLUID

Group Art Unit: 1712

Examiner: P. Tucker

Atty. Dkt. No.: MIDR:582--1
(11836.0582.CNUS01)

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL

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NUMBER

DATE OF DEPOSIT

August 6, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Barbi Sofia
Signature

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

The following is in response to the Office Action dated February 6, 2003.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct the three-month extension of time fee and any other necessary fees regarding this application from Deposit Account No. 01-2508, Order No. 11836.0689.PCUS00.